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Responses of Chimpanzees to a Python

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INTRODUCTION

Chimpanzees in captivity have been known to show fear response to snakes¹, and wild chimpanzees in Gombe,

Tanzania, showed not only fear and avoidance responses (e.g., leaping back, moving away) but also aggressive behavior (e.g., hitting the snake, chasing and stamping on the ground, shaking saplings) toward live snakes (*Causus rhombeatus*, *Philothamnus* spp, etc.)². Wild chimpanzees have also been known to express a “waa” bark² and a “huu” (“hoo”) call^{2,3} when they saw snakes. However, few observations of the reactions of chimpanzees to snakes have been made in the wild.

African pythons (*Python sabae*) have been thought to be among the potential predators of juvenile and infant chimpanzees⁴. Only one case involving the reactions of